

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A suspension and steering system for a wheeled vehicle having a frame suspended above a ~~beam-type~~ straight axle, said system comprising:

a pair of upper suspension arms and a pair of lower suspension arms, each of the lower suspension arms being coupled at an inner end to said axle and at an outer end to said frame;

at least one of said pairs of suspension arms being attached to said frame at outer ends thereof and angled inwardly to a point where the inner ends are adjacent to one another;

a mounting plate attached to the axle for coupling to said at least one pair of suspension arms;

a steering bellcrank pivotably mounted to said mounting plate for rotation about a central pivot axis during ~~in~~ steering said vehicle; and

means for mounting the inner ends of said at least one pair of suspension arms adjacent said central pivot axis of said steering bellcrank.

2. (Currently amended) The suspension and steering system of claim 1 wherein said at least one pair of suspension arms is ~~are~~ joined together at their inner ~~inward~~ ends to form a wishbone shape, the inner ~~inward~~ ends of which are mounted on the central pivot axis of said steering bellcrank.

3. (Original) The suspension and steering system of claim 1 wherein at least one pair of suspension arms are angled inwardly and attached to said mounting plate at points adjacent to said central pivot axis.

4. (Currently amended) The suspension and steering system of claim 1 further including a steering idler coupled to the ~~between a steering box~~ pitman arm and the steering bellcrank for causing said steering bellcrank to rotate about its pivot axis during steering of the vehicle.

5. (Original) The suspension and steering system of claim 2 wherein said wishbone is coupled to said mounting plate at the central pivot axis for rotation thereabout.

6. (Currently amended) The suspension and steering system of claim 4 ~~±~~ further including a steering drag link coupled between the steering idler and the steering bellcrank for converting movement of the pitman arm to rotation of said steering bellcrank about its pivot axis.

7. (Currently amended) The suspension and steering system of claim 1 wherein said at least one pair of suspension arms form a wishbone whose outer ends are attached to the frame and the remaining pair of suspension arms are coupled from the axle to the frame ~~on the underside of the axle~~.

8. (Original) The suspension and steering system of claim 1 wherein said at least one pair of suspension arms are attached to the frame at outer ends of said suspension arms and are attached to said mounting plate at points closely adjacent the central pivot axis of the steering bellcrank.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) A vehicle suspension and steering system for use in conjunction with a wheeled vehicle having a frame supported above a ~~beam-type~~ straight axle, said suspension and steering linkage system comprising:

upper and lower suspension arms each having inner and outer ends connected by pairs between the frame and the axle to permit vertical movement of the axle relative to the frame;

a mounting plate attached to said axle;

a steering bellcrank coupled to said mounting plate at a central pivot axis;
means joining the inner ends of said upper suspension arms together at said pivot axis;

a steering idler member mounted to convert movement of a ~~steering box~~ pitman arm to rotation of said bellcrank; and

a steering drag link extending from said steering idler member to said steering bellcrank to cause rotation of said steering bellcrank as the vehicle is steered.